



Timberbank Times

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Principal's Message



Dear Timberbank Parents/Guardians,

The holiday season is fast approaching and with our progress reports done, our staff and students continue to work hard at teaching and learning. We want to thank all of you for taking part in our parent-teacher interviews. This was an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and plan for future success.

We are so pleased to announce that both our Boys Volleyball Team and Girls Basketball Team are moving on to the Conference and Semi-Finals. We are very proud of them as they always display the Timberbank Team-work for which we are known. Best of luck to both teams!

December is a very busy month as our classes prepare for our Holiday Concert. Our Timberbank band is practising daily to not only get ready to perform for our Concert, but also at the Markham Theatre for the "Seasonal Celebration". We hope that you can join us for these wonderful events.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Diwali, Hannukah, Kwanzaa or Ramadan, on behalf of all the staff at our school, we would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season. May you enjoy celebrating during the winter break with family and friends!

Mrs. Anna Epitropou



Upcoming Dates

Dec 2	School Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in the Library
Dec 6	See and Hear Screening
Dec 7	Boys Volleyball Conference Finals @ Pleasantview
Dec 7	Girls Basketball Semi-finals
Dec 9	Grade 1-4 Robert Munsch Trip @ Harbourfront
Dec 9, 10	Inner City Angels Visiting Artist - Kindergarten classes
Dec 13	Forest Valley Trip: Ms Hwang/Mr.Mirshahi's gr2; Mrs. Walker's gr3
Dec 14	Lice Check
Dec 16	Holiday Concert @ 7pm
Dec 17	Carol Singing in the Gym / Pyjama Day
Dec 18	Winter Break Begins
Jan 3	School Starts

ATHLETICS:**Primary and Junior Houseleague @ Lunch**

Our students have been placed into their four mascot houses: Moose; Bears; Cougars and Hawks. Primary games take place on Tuesdays and Junior Games take place on Thursdays. What a great way to promote fitness and active life styles!

Girls Basketball: Congratulations to our girls team who is moving on to the semi-finals. Their game is on Tuesday, December 7th at Harrison PS and we wish them good luck! Our team: Abi, Mona, Teresa, Birathayini, Deepikka, Zarian, Tracy, Hadiya, Atsana and Sangheertha



Boys Volleyball: Congratulations to our boys team who is moving on to the Conference finals. Their game is also on Tuesday, December 7th @ Pleasantview Jr. High School. Good luck boys! Our team: Arthiran, Dominic, Haristan, John, Sendooran, Taha, Varan and William.



Special thanks to the coaches for their hard work: Ms Keith; Mr. O'Connor and Ms Kwok.

Pizza Lunch

We had our first pizza lunch on Thursday, November 25th. Thank you to all who participated and supported our school fundraiser. We raised \$270. The students really enjoyed their lunch

from Boston Pizza. Our next pizza lunch is scheduled for Monday, January 31st, 2011.

Crazy Hair Day

What a sight! Timberbank had its first Spirit Day on Friday, November 26th. Our students showed up with their hair done in braids, dyed in different colours and spiked up!



Way to go Timberbank! We have SPIRIT!!!

Staff Changes:

The staff and students would like to wish Mrs. Montgomery the best of luck as she prepares for the addition of a beautiful baby to her family. We will certainly miss Mrs. Montgomery. With this in mind, we have been fortunate to hire Mrs. Almas Aziz to replace Mrs. Montgomery from January 3rd to the end of the school. We would like to welcome Mrs. Aziz to our Timberbank family!



We would also like to wish Mr. Omar Watson the best of luck as he moves on to John Buchan & Leacock as the evening caretaker. We welcome to Timberbank Mr. Philip McKenzie who will be our new evening caretaker.

Let's Celebrate!

Christmas: Christmas is a Christian holiday that is celebrated on December 25th. People who celebrate Christmas are honoring the birth of Jesus, whose teachings are the foundation of Christianity. Some people celebrate Christmas by decorating an evergreen tree. They may also hang stockings and make special cookies. Christmas traditions from different cultures come together in our country.



Diwali: Diwali is a Hindu holiday. It is celebrated for five days. The word Diwali means "garland of lights". Hindus light candles in honour of Lakshmi, Vishnu's wife, the goddess of good fortune, wealth and happiness. At night, people light candles and oil lamps called dipas to brighten their houses and the streets.



Hanukkah: Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that lasts for eight nights. Each night, someone lights a candle on the menorah. The menorah symbolizes a lamp in a temple that unexpectedly burned for eight days with only a small amount of oil. Many people who celebrate Hanukkah give gifts to one another each night. Children and adults play dreidel to win coins and treats.



Kwanzaa: Kwanzaa is an African American holiday that is celebrated from December 26 to January 1. Kwanzaa lasts for seven days and focuses on seven principles: unity; purpose; creativity; self-determination; collective work & responsibility; cooperative economics; and faith. Each night of Kwanzaa, one of seven candles are lit. On the last night of Kwanzaa, people celebrate with music and dancing.



Ramadan: Ramadan is celebrated the ninth month of Islam's lunar calendar. Therefore, the month of Ramadan varies each year. During the month, adults fast from sunrise to sunset. Before dawn, participants eat a large breakfast. At sunset, observers eat a small dinner. At the end of the month, a celebration takes place called Eid al-Fitr. People sometimes eat special foods, such as spicy chicken, figs with goat cheese and fig cake.





Staying “ON T.R.A.C.K.”



On November 26th, we had our second “On TRACK” assembly. This month we were pleased to have our kindergarten students recognized along with the rest of our classes. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for their **RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY**: Menaal, Nishani & Sophia in **Mrs. Ball’s am class**; Gregory, Ilwad, Kate & Lucas in **Mrs. Chan’s class**; Disha, Fahad & Julianna in **Mrs. Balls’ pm class**; Abirami, Demetri, & Nancy Li in **Mrs. Montgomery’s class**; Chad, Jennifer, Kadija & Victor in **Mrs. Jeung’s class**; Aathrayan, Bo & Dolly in **Ms Hwang’s/Mr. Mirshahi’s class**; Jasvin, Jun, & Vithushan in **Mrs. Walker’s class**; Alexandra, Bhavika, David, Jaden & Jim in **Ms Persaud’s class**; Abdallah, Cynthia, Emeka, Nirajh, Sophia & Sowmija in **Mrs. Lee-Davis’ class**; and Deepikka, Haristan, Mona, Peter, & Sendooran in **Mr. O’Connor’s class**.

Our students did a great job at our assembly! Special thanks to Mrs. Lee-Davis and Ms Kwok for organizing the special skits presented by our junior students. During the months of December and January, we will be focusing on **ATTITUDE & ACHIEVEMENT**. We hope that our students recognize the importance of staying “On TRACK” every day!

Parent School Council News!

Our School Council needs you! We meet once a month to discuss your child’s education here at Timberbank Jr PS. Come out and join the discussion. Thank you to Ms Lisa Ferguson who is our Parent Rep on our Safe & Caring Schools Committee.

Our Future Meeting Dates: January 6th; February 3rd; March 3rd; April 7th; and May 5th

We hope to see many of you at our next School Council Meeting!



Timberbank’s Holiday Concert ‘Tis the Season !



Please join us on Thursday, December 16th @ 7pm

In the spirit of the season, we are asking for a food donation (non-perishable items) for the local food bank. All proceeds go to the Agincourt Community Services Association

Our School Council will be selling raffle tickets at the door.

Buy one ticket for \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.



Raffle Prizes: We are accepting donations of Raffle Prizes for the draw. Please drop off your donations at the school office. We appreciate you sending in your donations so that we have lots of prizes to win!

READ & WRITE GOLD

This past week our students from grades 2 to 6 received training for a new licensed software that is being used in TDSB.



Read and Write Gold is designed to provide literacy support for students of all ages and abilities. It supports a Universal Design of Learning Model and aids students in completing, reading, writing and research assignments. Read and Write Gold is now available to all schools in the TDSB. All students also have access to this software for home use (PC computers). To download and install 1 home installation of Read & Write, please enter the following URL in your web browser: <http://www.texthelp.com/toronto.asp>. Also, instructions are posted on our website at <https://timberbank.wikispaces.com/>

Once the TDSB page is displayed, enter in your **Username: TDSB** and **Password: 4500677672** and follow the installation instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Epitropou at the school for clarification.



Timberbank Band News



Have you heard the news? Our very own Timberbank Band is a part of the "Seasonal Celebration" at the Markham Theatre on Sunday, December 5th, at 2pm. Tickets were ordered through our school office. However, if you did not get a chance to purchase them, you can do so at the Box Office on Sunday. We are very proud of our incredible band and their dedication to our music band program. Thanks goes out to Mr. Manning for his hard work as our itinerant band instructor. And of course, a special thanks to Ms Hwang for the numerous hours of dedication to our band.

Our amazing band members are:

Flute: Anjali, Birathayini, Gayathiri, Joanne, Sophia, Teresa

Clarinet: Iqra, Isabel, Mona, Sangheertha, Tracy

Trumpet: Abi, Anda, Sarraneya, William

Trombone: Abiram, Atsana, Robert

Percussion: Birathesh, Katherine, Reshma

Baritone: Rameez, Varan



Gentle Reminders:

- When your child is absent or late, please give us a call to let us know at **416-396-6860**. For your convenience, the **Safe Arrival voice mailbox is available 24 hours each day**. All students arriving late or leaving early should sign in and/or out at the main office with a parent or designated caregiver. We appreciate your help in this matter.

Reminder!

- **Flu Season** is here again and it tends to run from October to April. The best way to protect yourself from getting the flu is to get the flu shot each year. We ask that everyone do their part to stop the spread of the flu. Helpful tips: wash your hands often; cover your sneeze and cough; and stay home when ill. For more information, please see page 5/6 of our newsletter or visit the Public Health website at www.toronto.ca/health